Red Action

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GIBRALTAR PLOT EXPOSED

EXCLUSIVE!

Now that the Thames documentary 'Death on the Rock' has been exonerated, after a four month long intensive inquiry led by Lord Windesham, it is an opertunity almost a year after the event, to examine exactly what happened on that fateful Sunday, March 6. Here just to refresh your memory is the original government account. The morning after the shootings all the newspapers carried reports of a '500lb bomb' the IRA had planted, the Daily Mail going as far as to mention its 'video timing device' and the Mirror the 'controlled explosion' that failed to set it off. The Independent told us of the ensuing 'shoot-out' and the Daily Record about a 'gun battle'. The Sun who else, actually found a witness, an unnamed 'teenage boy who saw the shootings (who) said "the gang were ordered to surrender. They were armed." He as never been heard of since. The Guardian chipped in with a description of one of the victims as Danny 'The Butcher' McCann. They neglected to mention that his family owned a small butchers shop in the Falls Rd., and he was a butcher by trade. So far so bad, the only problem being that there was no bomb and they were not armed. The next piece of 'news' was the identification of the fourth terrorist Evelyn Glenholmes, or if you prefer 'Evil Evelyn'. There was no evidence for this either, but as one of the 'inventors' told a man from the Irish Press 'we have a nice picture of her and she won't sue'. The shit didn't hit the fan until the This Week documentary 'Death on the Rock', which discovered six civilian eye-witnesses who had not been interviewed by police, including Carmen Proetta who claimed that Farrell and McCann had already surrendered when they were shot. The following day The Sun labelled her 'The Tart of Gib' and stated that she was an ex-prostitute, who ran an escort agency for rich arabs, her husband, a criminal with drug convictions, she hated the British, etc. The libel suit has since been settled out of court. 7 others are still pending.

The reason for the original dis-information or lies and the subsequent re-threads was as Colin Wallace, a former British Army black propagandist explained - "The important thing is to get saturation coverage for your story as soon after the controversial event as possible. Even after the facts come out the original image is the one that sticks." From start to finish the public were fed a pack of lies. Now the official version is that the IRA trio were challenged with a view to arrest, after planting what the security forces believed to be a bomb in the town. All three were shot dead after making 'suspicious moves' or 'aggressive actions' in a possible attempt to reach a remote control button to trigger the explosive device. Even a casual examination of the evidence presented at the coroners inquest exposes all of this as an improbable invention which was contradicted by all the civilian witnesses in one way or another. The majority conclusion of 9 of the jury that the execution was a 'lawful killing' lacks even minimal creditibility.

The facts and the evidence presented by the SAS and others shows that Farrell, McCann and Savage had to be killed on Sunday March 6, not because they believed they had planted the bomb, but because they knew they had not.

THE SET UP.

Originally much was made of the fact that the IRA were under surveillance from November, the co-operation between British and Spanish police, or as the Mirror on October 1, quoting one Ulster police source smugly put it 'We even knew how often they went to the toilet." That being the case how could they, Farrell, McCann and Savage have evaded security to slip into Gibraltar undetected? It was claimed in court that due to a number of 'errors' at the checkpoint in Gibraltar they avoided arrest. This account was dismissed as 'ludicrous' by coroner Felix Pizzorello. PC Huart (Gibraltar police officer) was put into a computer room on the Spanish side of the border to check passports fed to him by the Spanish Police. And mark it well, he is looking for the true names of the suspects and only those three names of the suspects, when the names of Coyne and Reilly (the pseudonyms of Savage and McCann) were known. Now - it is asked- can it reasonably be expected of the three terrorists on active service to use their real names. The reason is that it was intended

THE DUMMY RUN.

At 1250 on Sunday March 6 Sean Savage drove a white Renault across the border into Gibraltar. This was to reserve a parking space, ready for the arrival of the real car bomb probably on Monday evening. At 1430 Farrell and McCann walked across the border and met Savage off Main St. There every move was being watched by the surveillance team including the SAS. This

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THATCHER, WITH SOME OF HER UNIFORMED CO-CONSPIRATORS.

PLAY THE WHITE MAN

It's really amazing isn't it. I mean it's so English, the bastion of tradition, the game of gentlemen, yes of course Cricket. 'Cos crickets more than a game, as you've probably witnessed if you've been reading the newspapers over recent weeks.

To be brief. The International Cricket Conference has said that any cricketer playing or coaching in South Africa will be banned from participating in international cricket for 4 years.

Immediately the familiar cry came out, 'How dare they mix politics with sport' and certain toady politicans crept out of the woodwork, prattling on about freedom of individuals to play wherever they liked etc etc. I mean think about it: don't mix politics with sport?

South Africa s an oppressive regime, nearly 90% of its population is non-white, the vast majority of these people are kept in abject poverty by the ruling white 10%. If they argue for even the most basic of human rights they are either murdered or imprisoned.

But of course, cricket is above all this, 'cos playing cricket out there for the entertainment of the white supremacists is merely a game, and the wage being paid by the same regime is surely nothing political, what crap.

And what a joke, whose feeding us all this bullshit on individuals rights of freedom. None other than Norri: McWhirter (the only man who though Hitler was far too left-wing) and South Africas 'closet' ambassador John Carlisle MP. I mean its a bit like the pope campaigning for contraception.

PORTRAIT OF A REVOLUTIONARY

'Better to die on your Feet than to live on your Knees.' So La Pasionaria told the Spanish people when Franco launched his fascist rebellion in 1936.

Thousands agreed with her and went to Spain to make a stand against Fascism as part of the legendary International Brigades. Of the 48,000 from 56 countries who served in the Brigades, 12,000 were killed. Of the 2,050 men and women of the British Battalion 526 lost their lives and 1,200 were wounded. Among those who had joined the British Battalion, was an Irishman, Bob Doyle.

Members of Red Action travelled down to Bob's home on a cold winters night, to paint the portrait of a revolutionary.'

Although Bob is now a devout communist, his initiation into politics, was not through socialism, but through the national liberation struggle in his native Ireland.

'It was 1933, I was a good Catholic, used to go to mass in Dublin and my biggest enjoyment afterwards was to go round to Cathal Brugha St., where Frank Ryan, Padrea O'Donnell and other IRA speakers would be addressing great audiences at meetings. I came into contact with the IRA through Kit Conway. I had left home and sharad a room with Kit in Cable St., Dublin and he was Battalion Instructor of the 1st Dublin Battalion of the IRA. We would do drilling, marching etc., and then go out to the Dublin mountains on the Sunday and practice rifle and revolver firing.'

We asked Bob how he progressed from being a Republican into being a Republican Socialist.

'In 1934 there was a split in the IRA which I agreed with. I wasn't that well acquainted with politics but I naturally followed leaders like Padrea O'Donnell, Kit Conway, Mick Price and Frank Ryan, who were left-wing. We were living in slums, with no work and it was a bit of a contradiction to accept purely the ultra-nationalist outlook, and the ultra-nationalist policies of the middle-class leadership of the IRA. One of whom was my Battalion Commander, Maurice Thomey. He became a businessman and was even selling the fascist paper

The split came, and a conference (the Republican Congress) was held in Lathone, at Rathmines townhall, where there were thousands outside baying for our blood and singing 'To Jesus heart are burning, faith of our fathers, Holy Faith', and there were we discussing the slums, unemployment, education etc.

We then asked Bob what had drove him to Spain.

'Fascism was growing in Ireland, with the blueshirts. The former Commissioner of police, General O'Duffy, was the leader of the Fascist movement. At that time in Dublin, it was the crisi years, the nineteen thirties, and when there was a crisis in England it was worse in Ireland. Emigration was taking place practically on the scale it is taking place today. We were confronted with the same issues, a Fianna Fail government under De Valera which had done nothing for the working classes. We were in daily battles with the blueshirts. There were battles over unemployment, laying down in front of the trams in Dublin. The trams at that time were ownad by Martin Murphy, the same capitalist who had blessed the bullets, the British bullets, that had put the end to Connollys life. And with the development of Fascism throughout Europe, Germany, Italy etc. we were quite conscious of what was happening.

During my formative years in Ireland avery strike that took place for workers wanting twopance, eightpance, tenpance an hour was condemned by the pulpit. So of course when the Spanish war came about, the Bishops of Ireland, of Manooth college (which Christy Moore sings about) betrayed the Irish people again and led them into thinking they were supporting a Catholic crusade to save Spain from the heathens, communists "churchburners, and nun-rapers. Because of the role the Catholic church had played, the hysteria about communism in Ireland was worse than anywhere else in the world. At that time I was in Dublin and masses ware being said, collections were baing made for the holy crusade in Spain: and I always had the tendency since a very early age of knowing that whatever the church supports, its not good for me, so it was easy for us to choose that this was the fight.

But it wasn't just that. My roommate, Kit Conway, had gone to Spain and had been out there for about three months, when he was killed at the battle of Jarama. He would have been in a leading position because he was a commander in Ireland and had great military knowledge and a great record. When i heard he had been killed, I decidad I must get to Spain and avenge him, because I knew he was on the right side..

We asked Bob whether the idea that is often put forward, that the International Brigaders, especially the British, were upper and middle class intellectuals, academics, romantics and idealists, was nearer fact or fiction.

'I keep getting asked this question, or the media trys to pursue it, of the idealism. Personally I don't like the word idealism. I don't attribute it to myself because I was class conscious. It wasn't just because Spain had a Democratic government that we were defending it, it was still a bourgeois republic; but it was a challenge from an elected government to the power and authority of the powerful and the mighty, to the landed aristocracy, the big capitalists and the church oligarchy and we could see that."

THE PLAQUE IN THE PHOTO, THE INSCRIPTION READS; 'TO THE VOLUNTEER OF LIBERTY.

So in the main it was working class people who went over to fight?

'Yes with very few exceptions.

There were certainly intellectuals there, there was Peter Fry, George Orwell and a number of other people. And generally of course, after the war, it would be those intellectuals you only needed a handful of them, who had the ability to do great writings, as against the working class who weren't able to express themselves, and they would gain great prominence." As Bob later told us "My University was the orphanage, borstal, prison and the concentration camp."

We brought the conversation round to issues of the present day. We explained to him about Red Action's policy of continually confronting the fascists of today, both physically and ideologically, and of the hostility with which this policy is met by most groups on the 'left' who don't see fascism as a problem in the eighties. We explained to him that Red Action is a group that is looking to the past to establish traditions and if someone like himself, who has had the chance to witness history, saw parallels between the struggle then and the struggle now?

"yes, there are parallels. It was only two years after the second world war that fascists, Moselyites, came out onto the street again. I was at West Green, Tottenham with about 2,000 othar anti-fascists, opposing a fascist march. They were singing 'God save the King' and giving the fascist saluta, that was only two years attar the war, and I was arrested. I defandad myself, and said if it was good enough for me to be sand during the war to patrol the Western Atlantic, then it was good enough for me to take a bus from Paddington down to Tottenham. I was fined £7..

There was also the '62 group. This was mainly Jewish ex-serviceman who went around beating up fascists or protecting meetings. On one occasion, when they were defending an anti-fascist meeting from an expected fascist attack, at Paddington town hall, they beat me up by mistake. Than they were embracing me, saying, 'oh, it's Bob Doyle' - on the ground."

We spoke about the abscence of any strong political traditions or allegiances, amongst the working class youth of today. The way that many of them, who become disillusioned with the present state of affairs, aspire simply to a kind of "anti-ism", nihilism, that in the future could become very dangerous, if exploited, as has been done before, by fascist organisations..

"The one thing that really worries me, are the attempts that have been made in relation to such an important struggle as the Spanish war. For example in the American Civil War there were a million killed , there were only two executed afterwards from crimes against prisoners and humanity, and they were judicially tried and executed. But in the Spanish War there were 192,460, who were simply executed. And what worries me are the attempts that have been made to sweep this aspect of history under the carpet, to obliterate it, not to remember it, not to speak about it and that to me is the greatest danger, because that will create a youth without a conscience. We had a conscience, we knew what we were going into. But with the cynicism that has been created in the youth of today and these attempts, successful at the moment, of sweeping history under the carpet there is a danger that a youth without a conscience will be created, and that can be a danger to a country, and a danger to humanity,

We wondered whether, as we brought the conversation full circle and back to the subject of the struggle on Ireland, whether, on this subject time had told on Bob and he had suffered from the enormous revisionsm that affects so many people as regarus this subject both inside and outside of that island. Of course, on this subject, as with every subject he spoke of, our fears were quickly allayed.

"I was a Republican, and still am. I make no apologies for being Republican, I have spoken on Republica platforms, and Republican meetings, as well as being a communist. I still say Ireland was Britain's first colony and it's still it's last colony. Any Irishman worth his salt must say 1)He's Republican, and, well, 2)That he stand's for an indapendant, free and united Ireland, I haven't deviated from that whatsoever even though I may not ever liva in Ireland. I'm nationalist to that extent.

"Who better than me to say to you, I don't want to see a Catholic dictatorship in Ireland, as I've seen in Spain. I do know how religious these people are, and I'm fearful of religion, I'm very fearful because I have seen the crimes that have been committed in the name of the Catholic church. My Bible was always 'Labour Nationality and Religion' and 'Labour in Irish History', both by James Connolly and if every Protestant and Catholic worker were to read that, the situation would be completely different. Perhaps aven Paisley has got a point when he accuses the Vatican of being Anti-Christ. Well if you look up the history of the fucking brotherhood, the crisis they brought about the Italian government when they wouldn't hand over Marcinkus who had been laundering money for the mafia."

Finally, we asked Bob how he saw both the present and future developing in our very

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INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

Once again a Red Actions womens delegation will be travelling to Belfast to take part in International Womens Day Activities, traditionally celebrated on March 9th. It is an all too short time when women around the world look inwards towards closer solidarity, and outward towards womens liberation. All women are oppressed, not just by the state, cultures, and religions they live within, but by their fellow men, whether it be the chauvinistic boss, the aggressive boyfriend or husband, or the bunch of lads on the corner shouting crude remarks.

This year we will travel out on Friday 3rd March to participate in the workshops and the picket of Maghaberry prison where women political prisoners are held -there will be a chance to visit Republican Socialist POW's imprisoned in Long Kesh, Maghaberry, and Portlaoise, which we as Red Action have been sponsoring. We will be staying, once again, with members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party and their families, in and around the Nationalist community of West Belfast. We thank them for their ever brilliant warm hospitality.

We would strongly urge any women with an interest in this trip to accompany us. If you have any feeling towards revolutionary politics then a trip to Belfast cannot fail to inspire you. It is easy to watch, and read the media distortions, do not be satisfied with that, go there, see for yourself what British State repression and intimidation is about. Just being there is an education. The spirit of resistance is there, on the streets working class men, women and children prepared to fight; exactly the same reaction would be found here in Britain if some overpowering state took over and sent its troops out onto the streets.

BELFAST 1988

The workshops will be an excellent opportunity for debate, on many issues. We as Red Action women members see ourselves as feminists. But firstly working class. We will take responsibility for womens issues, but a joint responsibility with men, who have an equal part to play in changing societies attitudes to women. We are definitely not separatists, everybodys consciousness needs to be raised, we can't fight on our own. All the women present at the workshops should try to enter into the debates and discussions. Many women are intimidated by a room full of men in heavy conversation; you do have something valid to say, and this is the chance to start speaking. Just make sure you share what you have learned and act on it wherever possible. It is opportunities like this when we realise that the women fighting for Irish freedom are people whom we can identify with, learn from, and who have the same interests at heart as we do.

The picket of Maghaberry will take place on the Sunday in solidarity with the women Republican and Republican Socialist POW's who not only suffer imprisonment but degrading and humiliating strip searches at the hands of prison officers, for totally unjustifiable security reasons.

Last year we noted that from Sinn Feins platform, they read out all names of women Sinn Fein/IRA Volunteers in jail, voiced support for Palestinian and South African women in struggle, but did not mention any IRSP/-INLA prisoners. We took this as a sectarian act towards the IRSP and hope that this year their women prisoners names are listed with Sinn Feins. If they are not we will continue to support this picket, and by being there with the IRSP contingent, thus bring attention to the fact that IRSP women are held in jail and will be supported.

With this delegation taking in more activities than last time it can only be a more successful weekend.

While in Belfast last March we witnessed the swift reaction of anger and grief by the nationalist community when 3 IRA Volunteers were brutally shot down and killed whilst unarmed by the paid assassins of the SAS in Gibraltar. One of these Volunteers was Mairead Farrell, this is some of what she had to say about the role of women in struggle.

"I'm oppressed as a woman, but I'm also oppressed because I'm Irish. Everyone in this country is oppressed and we can't successfully end our oppression as women fully until we first end opression of our country, but i don't think thats the end of it. It happened before when women took the back seat. But women today have gone through too much. No way will they allow that to happen, and I hope I'm alive because I certainly won't allow that to happen. Once we remove the British that isn't it - thats only the beginning."

Women have an equal amount to do toward the building of a socialist socie-y - we've started to act, nothing will stop us now from taking up our role.

SUPPORT GROUPS NOW SEEN AS PLAYING A VITAL ROLE IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

SOLIDARITY NETWORK

During the 1984-85 Miners strike a major and new initiative took place when rank and file support groups were formed across the country. The role of the groups was invaluable in spreading support for the dispute, adding a physical presence on the picket line and gaining much needed finance.

When the print dispute at Wapping began in January 1986, many of these groups reformed and they once again, were at the forefront in providing solidarity to the strike. At the demise of the dispute several of the groups together with strikers from the Silentnight bedding dispute decided that the groups should link together on a more permanent basis to form a rank and file Network.

A series of planning meetings took place which eventually led to a conference being held in Leeds in November 1987. This meeting agreed that the Solidarity Network should be formed officially. The basic aims of the Network was to give solidarity and support to working class disputes and campaigns.

As word has spread about the Network it has drawn in more rank and file support. This is illustrated by the fifteen person steering committee which was elected at the 1988 conference. This contains supporters from Yorkshire, Somerset, the Midlands, Cumbria, Oxford, Kent and London. This spread of supporters across the country has enabled strikers, such as those at P+O at Dover, to be invited into areas and the support to be spread. Many of these groups contain ex strikers and strike activists and their experience is invaluable.

The Network has worked with the Chesterfield Conference Organisation in developing their Trade Union work and have successfully developed several joint initiatives. The Network remains autonomous from the Chesterfield group. Much of the success of the Network has been based on its non sectarianism and the fact that it gives practical solidarity from a rank and file base.

As well as support for local disputes and campaigns the Network is currently involved in preparing assistance for the possible forthcoming docks strike. This has been partly achieved by the use of the Solidarity Network bulletin which is now produced on a regular basis. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT; 2, ALLIN CLOSE, BLACKBIRD, LEYS, OXFORD.

WHODUNNIT?

Once again recently we have had the familiar scenario of media and politicians alike taking incidents and rumours to create political hysteria and a lust for revenge

The incidents and rumour i speak of are the Lockerbie plane crash and the recent Libyan skirmish.

It's quite startling if one just sits back from the media frenzy and examines the facts and the reactions of the various governments over both incidents and how they can be manipulated to suit the needs of the political ringmasters.

Take the Lockerbie plane crash on December 21. A flight from London to New York crashed in the south-west corner of Scotland. Apart from the obvious shock of the number of casualties (and now even more common sight of media voyeurism in episodes such as this) very little seemed to point to anything other than an unfortunate plane crash. Then suddenly the media moguls had a straw to clutch at, most of the victims were our cousins from across the Atlantic, the hint of foul play creeps into the setting. Then the buzz over the next few days as reporters and politicians alike virtually willing the news of terrorist bombs to be revealed. Then bingo. Evidence is found of an explosion causing the crash, its party time for Fleet St. The next stage in the sequence has of course already been written, and follows the familiar chain. Crash bomb - US victims therefore Arab perpuatrators. Why the Arabs? Well thats just the way things are, the fact that probably the majority of the worlds population has more than a slight grievance against the United States is irrelevant. Because after all if one starts pointing the finger towards the middle-east then the ultimate fall guy is of course the man they all love to hate, the man of the designer uniforms and the Maccleans smile, good old 'Mad Dog Colonel Gadaffi himself. The man apparently responsible for more deaths than Hitler, Stalin and Attila the Hun combined. He is in fact the western worlds most infamous punchbag.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, looking for the bombers,or future targets?

But even the evidence of semtex as the cause of the explosion and vague secondhand information from somewhere near the North Pole about some Middle-Eastern terrorist group giving a warning two weeks prior blah blah blah, couldn't prove who were the perpatrators of this foul deed.

Then, out of the blue, comes the news that the Libyans have chemical weapons, and are about to wipe out the entire population of Europe. Well it. Send in the marines and give the 'Mad Dog' a bloody nose.

But really you have to ask yourself who had anything to gain from the initial blowing up of the passenger jet. If it was some Middle-Eastern terrorist group, then you think they'd claim it to let the US and rest of the Arab world why they did it. So why didn't they? They didn't claim that they planted the bomb as there was limited political gain with such an action, in fact it would surely be counter productive.

Well, if you think about it the only possible result of the bomb on that plane would be to generate the hostility of the rest of the world and in particular of the United States towards the Arab World.

Now who in the light of recent events, considering the recent diplomatic exchange between the PLO and the US who would benefit most from a fracturing of this new delicate and fragile relationship. I just can't imagine. Can You?

cont...

GIBRALTAR PLOT EXPOSED

was the rehearsal or 'dummy run'. They would follow exactly the same routine on the day with a real car bomb. The purpose being to identify and eliminate any possible hitches in advance, but there was another reason. The IRA unit would want to find out if indeed they were under surveillance or if they had attracted suspicion before committing themselves, as so far their only crime was to be in the pocession of false passports. At 15.25pm they returned to the Assembley area paying great attention to the white Renault. All three were highly trained operatives, skilled in the art of counter-surveillance. There actions were designed to invite suspicion, attract attention and so assess the overall security, but most of all they would have been alert to any moves that might indicate that they were being watched. The hunted had become the hunters.

At 15.30pm they left heading northwards towards the border. The Soldier C told the inquest that from then on all three "were very surveilance conscious". Meiread Farrell in particular kept looking over her shoulder, "they were moving fast and frequently checking behind themselves". An MI5 man known as 'M' disclosed, "I formed the opinion that they were attempting counter-surveilance". 'M' another from MI5 acknowledged that he followed Savage as he went in and out of the town backstreets, "he deployed very subtle anti-surveilance technique". At one stage Savage had walked behind McCann and Farrell, "I recognised this as counter-surveilance to see if anyone was following his colleagues. I judged them to be highly professionel".

Suddenly Savage, in spliting off from the other two, turned so quickly he actuelly bumped into two of the SAS men who were following. Another plain clothes police officer, 'P' stated that he had recognised McCann because he had actually made 'eye contact' with him. Far from "unsuspecting IRA terrorists", walking into a trap, it is clear that they knew they were under observation, indeed given the circumstances and their actions, it is inconceivable that they did not. The real significance was however that the did not. The real significance was however that the 'watchers' knew they knew. This triggered the sequence of events that would result in their death.

THE ASSASSINATION.

They were now less than a thousand yards from the Spanish border and reletive safety. Suddenly e siren in a police car sounded. The car pulled out of a line of traffic behind the trio, drove pass them and swung around the roundabout at speed. A SAS man known as 'M' said the siren was turned on as it reced back towards the IRA team; "Almost immediately they, Farrell and McCann, stopped. They appeared to turn, a second later the two soldiers went into rigid positions and started firing". Why did they turn ? If not to face the people that were following them. This was supported by soldier 'A', the first to fire, who described the moment before the shooting, "he, McCann had a smile on his face and he looked straight at me. We had what I call eye to eye contact. We looked directly at eachother". According to civilian witnesses they surendered by putting their hands in the air, and were shot repeatedly in the back and head from less than three feet. 'M' told the inquiry that Savage spun round on hearing the SAS firing at McCann, and Farrell, "I recall quite clearly the expression of amazement on his face". He was probably amazed because it was broad daylight, he knew neither was armed and would have done nothing to provoke such action.

THE CHALLENGE.

The evidence of e challenge or verbal warning can be dismissed. In fact due to the unshakeable evidence that there were no warnings, by the time of the inquest the state had changed its story, "I went to shout stop but I actually don't know if it came out, claimed soldier 'A'. The SAS man known as 'C' confessed in relation to the shooting of Sean Savage that the shout of stop, "blended with the firing." Clearly there was no warning.

'THE FATAL MOVES.'

McCann had only been dressed in a T-shirt and trousers so where was the gun and detoneter concealed ? In the waistband of his trousers or his pocket. Soldier 'A' said, "The smile went off McCann's face then all of e sudden the right elbow moving, what I would call egressively, across the front of his body". Soldier 'B' on Farrell said, "Farrell made a sharp move to her right. She made all the actions to carry out the detonation of the redio controlled bomb." According to Soldier 'C' Savage too went for the right side of his jacket. None of the Soldiers, A,B or C could explain why they thought Ferrell, McCann or Savage made such moves when they had neither guns nor detonators.

The real question is did the SAS believe there was a bomb that could be detonated by remote control etc.. Soldier 'C', "I was sure he had gone to initiate the device, my main concern because of the amount of people around. Had I given him time to initiate the device it would have been catastrophic." Soldier 'A' said, "The whole worry was the bomb in the bussing area. I thought McCann was definitly going for a button." At the inquest they were to admit that they never searched the bodies for the alleged detonators after claiming that they had killed them because they were convinced they had them.

An electronics expert, Michael Scott, told the inquest that, "The rather grotty car aree was the wrong length to recieve a signal and that a radio signal could not have detonated the bomb in any case because it would have had to pass through s block of flats, forty foot thick city walls, a Moorish Castle, part of the edge of the Rock of Gibraltar, a gatehouse and then houses all the way." Further more he pointed out that by simply unscrewing the car aeriel the SAS would have made the bomb a aeriel the SAS would have made the bomb absolutely useless Apart from these examples of incredulus incompetience, Why did the police not evacuete the area until two hours after the shooting. As Mr C. Columbo, Police Commissioner, revealed, " there was NO RISK. We were not certain there was a bomb." If the police did not bother to evacuate the aree they knew there was no bomb. If the police knew there the SAS knew.

THE MOTIVE.

If there was no threat to civilians why were the three shot repeatedly (Savage being shot fifteen times) and not arrested. The reason as the Sunday Times Insight Team unwittingly revealed on March 13th, a week after the killings, "While there was no definite proof that the car contained a bomb it was essential to stop the trio reaching the border - if the car turned out to be empty, although the evidence might have been sufficient for a conspiracy charge, extradition from Spain would be tricky." Unless 'Stop' means 'KILL' it does no explain why they were not arrested in Gibraltar.

THE VERDICT.

The reason was that once Thatcher sent in the SAS Death Squad to Gibraltar it was her intention that the IRA unit would be wiped out. The mistake that exposed the conspiracy was, that due to incompetent surveilance they were forced to kill McCann, Farrell and Savage on the Sunday, before they had planted the bomb rather than after they had planted it on the Monday when the unit would have exchanged the empty Renault with the Red Fiesta conteining the bomb. Could they not have arrested them in Gibraltar ? Easily... but all they could have been charged with was pocession of false passports, maximum sentence two years.

That was the real reason for the panic, the real reason for the messy murder in front of dozens of witnesses, in broad daylight, on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The unarmed IRA unit was cutdown on was described as e "frenzied attack", less than a thousand yards from the border. Extradition from Spain would be tricky, they now knew there would be no car bomb on Monday to 'justify' the murders because due to the bungled surveilance the IRA unit would not be coming back. The IRA unit was not shot to save lives, they were not shot to protect civilians, they were not alerted by the siren because they were aware of the surveilence, they were given no chance to surrender because it was not the intention to arrest them, there was no challenge. McCann and Farrell surrendered because they had expected to be arrested. Savage ran and was shot in the back. None of the witnesses saw them make any 'suspicious moves' for a remote control device that did not in any case exist. Why would they try to detonate a bomb on Sunday when their intended target was not due to arrive until Tuesday. If it had been their intention to kill civilians they would not have had to travel to Gibraltar to do that. The British

The British Army has killed hundreds of people in disputed circumstances. On Sunday March 6th 1988 when the mask of neutrality slipped again, the world was watching. Don't be decieved when they tell you things are different over there, they are, but only in that like South Africa and Israel the level of oppression is raised to meet the level of resistance. When push comes to shove they will not hesitate to demonstrate similar skills over here.

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PORTRAIT OF A REVOLUTIONARY

own 'green and pleasant land'?

"Each day that goes by we're losing civil libertiea. And I see it. I know I might be an exception, but I see it as a creeping fascism in this country, and that they've learnt man of the lessons of Franco's Spain. Because Franco's Spain was a place the Tories would have gone for their holidays, all the time. Thatcher and the police are getting more and more armed,ting more organised to meet civil strife, they're expecting the civil strife, the miner's was one lesson. It's like the pensioners, we can go and plead as much as we want to, down at the House of Commons, but the government will take no notice. So I think the situation now confronting the working class is direct action. Not just to get the headlines, but like, they're well armed, they're well prepared particularly on the basis of N.Ireland, to meet what they would call civil strife, which is bound to be the resistance of the workers. I can see it's building up towards a revolutionary situation."

SUPPORT RED ACTION

P.O. BOX 45
136 KINGSLAND HIGH STREET
LONDON E.8.

RED ACTION ON MERSEYSIDE

If interested in finding out more/getting active in the North West or on Merseyside. There is a grouping of members and supporting members on Merseyside who can be contacted by writing to:

RED ACTION MERSEYSIDE
P.O. BOX 80
SOUTHPORT
PR8 6BH

WE ARE RED ACTION

RED ACTION IS AN ORGANISATION FOUNDED TO WORK TOWARDS THE ENDING OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOCIALIST ONE

CAPITALISM The need of capital and labour cannot ever be reconciled. In other words the quest by the employing classes for greater profit, is in eternal conflict with the demands of the working class for higher wages, shorter hours etc. It is in the obvious interest of the employer to keep wages down as low as possible while it is equally obvious that this does not serve the interests of the majority. The two systems capitalism and socialism cannot co-exist, as they are in constant struggle pulling in opposite directions, each in pursuit of its own goals. A victory for one is necessarily a defeat for the other. This is the major source of conflict in the world today. Capitalism is a system which is based on the private ownership of the means of production. This means that the factories, workplaces, natural resources etc, on which we all depend to produce the necessities of life are the private property of a few individuals, who use them to produce not what is most socially necessary, but whatever will make them the most profit. When it suits them, they are able to close down those productive resources, even though there may be great social need for what could be produced on them. Regardless of how rich a country may be in natural resources, capitalism can never provide equality of wealth due to its own inherent limitations. It is obviously impossible for everybody to become a capitalist (employer) and so to function, the system demands the creation and maintenance of an employing class and a working class, or if you like an upper class and lower class. Propping up this system, are the forces of social control—army, police force, civil service etc—all controlled by totally unelected and un-accountable representatives of the capitalist class.

SOCIALISM It is impossible for us today to say exactly what a socialist system will be like, as when it happens there will be millions of others involved in shaping it. However there are some features that would have to be present in any society, before we would be willing to consider it as socialist.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP Only when all of the major productive resources and industry are taken into public ownership, will it be possible for the democratic will of the majority to ensure that they are at all times employed in the most socially useful manner. This will result in a massive increase in production and wealth.

CONTROL OF SOCIETY All those who occupy positions of power and authority will be elected by those they represent and subject to recall.

FREEDOM AND EQUALITY All will be expected to contribute to production and all will receive equal reward and have equal rights, irrespective of sex, race or creed. The state will provide adequate facilities to cater for the needs of the elderly, sick, handicapped, nursing mothers etc, who will all receive a full wage. All questions of personal morality will be free from state interference. Abortion and contraception will be legal and provided by the state. There will be freedom or worship for all religion, but no church will be allowed to interfere in state matters.

INTERNATIONALISM The capitalist economic system is linked up internationally, therefore the struggle to overthrow it is a worldwide one. All workers everywhere have the same interests. It is impossible for socialism to exist in isolation in one country, as the power of international capitalism would crush it.

NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD TO SOCIALISM Socialism cannot be achieved through the parliamentary system, because the real power in society lays not with elected MPs but with rich industrialists and the leaders of the armed forces, police judiciary etc. The present structures cannot be reformed they must be overthrown. The Labour Party does not try to end capitalism, but merely give the workers a better deal within it.

UNION STRENGTH. WE SUPPORT ANY PICKET LINE IN DEFENCE OF WORKERS LIVING STANDARDS. We support a strong organised rank and file movement within the unions. Union officials should be supported as long as they represent their members correctly. But rank and file unionists must reserve the right to take action independent of the officials when necessary.

TOTAL OPPOSITION TO RACISM AND FASCISM We opposed any movement or ideology which attempts to divide the working class on grounds of race, sex, or creed. We recognise the need to oppose fascist organisations, both ideologically and physically on the streets.

THE IRISH NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE AGAINST OUR OWN RULING CLASS We support the right of oppressed people the world over to fight back. We unconditionally support the right of the revolutionary armies The Irish Republican Army, and the Irish National Liberation Army, to engage in armed struggle to free their country from British rule. We draw great inspiration from the principled and courageous manner in which they conduct their struggle, and from the way in which they have integrated cultural and class expression into their political movement.

THE "COMMUNIST" STATES The regimes in countries such as Russia, China Cuba etc, are used as examples to try and prove socialism undesirable. In our view, although these countries have planned economies, they cannot be described as socialist. We contend that socialism cannot be implemented from above by an unaccountable ruling elite. Public ownership, freedom and democracy are all essential features of socialism and in their absence it cannot exist. We support the right of the people in these states to overthrow the leadership and implement socialist policies. At the same time however, we recognise the difficulties that states such as Nicaragua—and others past and present—face, from capitalist backed mercenary armies, military intervention, and economic sabotage, which make immediate transition to a socialist system impossible. While these states remain progressive, we will continue to support them.

THE ORGANISATION Traditionally, the structure of revolutionary socialist groups in this country, has been one where the leadership is made up of a small group of self selected academics and intellectual, who wield absolute authority over the membership. Such a structure fails, firstly because there can be no true democracy in such a set up, and corruption soon sets in, and secondly because those leading the organisation are so far removed from the realities of working class life, it cannot relate properly to that class. A revolutionary socialist organisation must be composed of and led by working class people. It must recognise that no leadership is immune from corruption and be truely democratic in its internal structures. It must be ready to work in a non sectarian manner with other socialist and progressive groups. It must present socialist politics in a manner in which working class people can identify with in their life and their work and their leisure. It must be consistent, principled and above all honest in its politics. Only then will it begin to be able to relate to the working class, most of whom today are cynical if not hostile towards the revolutionary left. We recognise that a revolutionary working class party is necessary if capitalism is to be overthrown. We are not that party, neither are those groups which claim to be it. We will work to keep alive a tradition of working class militancy, until such time as enough militants can be brought together to form that party.